

15th June 2025



Trinity Sunday

Having taught Religious Education for more years than I care to remember, it's always fascinating to see what really gets students thinking. An increased emphasis on ethical issues and philosophical questions guarantees interest but there is also a theological question that regularly causes curiosity: *How can Christians believe in one God, but also say that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?* To many, it sounds like three gods—or just plain confusing!

To help make sense of it, I (as we all probably do!) have often turned to the image of water. H₂O can be ice, liquid, or steam—three forms, but still one substance. It's not a perfect analogy (no analogy for God ever is), but it gives us a starting point. God is one, yet exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each with different roles. In John 16:12–15 we find Jesus preparing His disciples for the time when he will no longer be with them physically. He promises the Spirit, who will guide them into truth, speak to the believer what He hears and glorify Jesus. In these verses, we catch a glimpse of the deep connection within the Trinity: The Father sends the Son, the Son glorifies the Father, the Spirit reveals the Son—it feels rather like a divine dance of giving, receiving, and honouring...

At the heart of the Trinity is **relationship**. God is not a solitary being on a throne, but a living community of love. That's more than theology—it's profoundly practical. We are made in the image of this relational God. Therefore we too are made for community, for interdependence, for love that gives and receives.

We live in a world that appears to prize independence and self-sufficiency, encouraging people to stand on their own two feet. Yet so many people crave (and lack) connection. The Holy Trinity reminds us that this is where true strength lies. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are different but always together, we are made to be ourselves—but not by ourselves. We are meant to live in relationship: with God, and with one another.

The Trinity isn't just a mystery to understand; it's a relationship to enter, and a pattern to live by. I wonder how our world would be if we all truly lived this way....

Maggie



Please pray for...



Brian McClellan, John Panter, Jenny Wade, Mary Senior, Jill Alexander's daughter, Jodie, who is waiting for surgery to remove her gallbladder, Nita's grandson, Ben, Andy Morton (Debra Deeley's son-in-law), and Helen Sweet's son-in-law, Alan Dean.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.

Bring and Share Lunch.



This Sunday's Bring & Share lunch is hosted by Margaret Law at Emmanuel Lodge, Longslow Rd, TF9 3BP. We gather from about 1.00pm. All are welcome.

Archdeacon's Visitation

The annual Archdeacons visitation is at in St Mary's on the **16th June starting at 7.00pm**. If you are able to donate cakes/biscuits for refreshments before and after the service, could you sign the list on the table at the back of the church. For more information please talk to Pat Fox. Help with serving refreshments would also be appreciated. Thank you.

Fire!

Most of you will know now about the fire that has damaged the south door of the church – and those of you in church this weekend will no doubt detect the lingering smell of smoke! Efforts have been made to clean up and ventilate the church. Many thanks indeed to all those who have helped, especially Nita Heath, John Watkin, Peter Fox and Elaine Cook. While we are doing the best we can, if the smoky smell is too uncomfortable for you, please take whatever action or precautions you need. In the meantime, action is underway to initiate an insurance claim, get quotes for cleaning carpets / upholstery and to get quotes and the appropriate permissions for replacing or repairing the door.

We pray for all those who will be very distressed by what had happened and we thank God that the damage wasn't more extensive and whilst we hope that justice will be done, we also pray for those who started the fire.

Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings **Romans 5:1-5 John 16: 12-15**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpOWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Churches Together

The next Churches Together outdoor prayer meeting is on **Saturday 21st June**. For all who want to seek God together for His work in the town, please meet outside the library at **11am for 30 minutes**.

Pioneering Parishes

Maybe you've heard the term 'pioneering' used of certain church activities, or heard people referred to as 'Pioneer Ministers' ...and maybe you've wondered 'what's that all about?'

As the name suggests, pioneer ministry is predominantly outward focussed, directed towards those not already part of the worshipping community – and one of its key features is that it tends to emerge from something else that is already happening, which God seems to be really using to draw people together.

Lichfield Diocese have enlisted the services of an organisation called Pioneering Parishes, who enable churches to become more outward-looking and recognise what God is already doing in their midst and in their communities - things which can become opportunities for engaging people with the Christian faith. They have already begun working with Rugeley Deanery and now Wem & Whitchurch Deanery have asked if Hodnet Deanery would like to join with them to explore how they might help our churches too.

A taster session will be held on **Saturday 28th June, 9.30am-3.30pm at St Mary's Parish Rooms**. Anybody who is interested is welcome. Please let Catherine know if you would like to attend.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required:

Sponge Pudding; Biscuits; Toilet Rolls; Sanitary Towels; Shampoo; Cleaning Products

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.



Phoenix Group

Phoenix group next meeting on **Friday 20th June** at 10:30 at Festival Drayton Centre .
Coffee and a chat !

Baby Bank

Thursday 19th June,

9am-11am at Raven

House. Pop in to choose some free baby clothes and equipment.



Save the Date:

Concert in aid of our organ fund



Come to a concert on **Saturday 23rd August** by Shifnal Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund.

Congratulations

To John Panter, who will be 80 on 22nd June.

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

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